

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0636
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2264

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PFOR PINT PO
SUBJECT: CDS LEADER ON PRESIDENTIAL ROLE IN PARTY COOPERATION

REF: LISBON 2215 (DTG 181720Z MAR 77)

SUMMARY: CDS VICE LEADER SAYS THAT PRESIDENT EANES HAS
URGED THE DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION PARTIES TO COOPERATE WITH
PRIME MINISTER SOARES'S SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE
SUMMER. BOTH PARTIES HAVE AGREED TO DO SO. END SUMMARY.

1. CENTER DEMOCRATIC (CDS) VICE LEADER AMARO DA COSTA
TOLD DCM MARCH 19 THAT SHORT-TERM OUTLOOK WAS GOOD FOR
NON-COMMUNIST POLITICAL COOPERATION AS A RESULT OF
PRESIDENT EANES'S PERSONAL INTERVENTION. COSTA RECOUNTED
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THAT FOLLOWING THE PRESIDENTIAL MEETING MARCH 15
ON THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS (REFTEL), EANES ASKED
PRIME MINISTER SOARES, PSD LEADER SA CARNEIRO,
AND CDS LEADER FREITAS DO AMARAL TO REMAIN WITH HIM.
AN OFFICER OF THE SECOND DIVISION (INTELLIGENCE) THEN
BRIEFED THE GROUP CONCERNING COMMUNIST PARTY STRATEGY
AND TACTICS IN PORTUGAL. THE OFFICER CALLED ATTENTION

TO EXPECTED PCP HIGH POINTS ON APRIL 2, FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF PORTUGAL'S NEW CONSTITUTION; APRIL 25, THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE OVERTHROW OF THE DICTATORSHIP; MAY 1, THE ANNUAL MAY DAY EVENT, AND OTHER COMMUNIST-INSPIRED HAPPENINGS. COSTA SAID THAT THE BRIEFING LACKED CONCRETE DATA, THAT IT WAS "ROMANTIC," BUT IT DID SERVE TO UNDERScore THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE PRESIDENCY VIEWS THE CURRENT SITUATION.

2. AFTER THE BRIEFING PRESIDENT EANES SPOKE. HE SPECIFICALLY ASKED SA CARNEIRO AND FREITAS DO AMARAL TO SUPPORT SOARES'S GOVERNMENT THROUGH SUMMER. AFTER THAT, HE SAID, THE OPPOSITION PARTIES COULD RESUME THEIR NORMAL POLITICAL BEHAVIOR. BOTH OPPOSITION LEADERS AGREED WITHOUT DEMUR. ACCORDING TO COSTA THE CONSENSUS OF THE MEETING WAS THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO PROVIDE OVERALL SUPPORT FOR THE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO (A) ISOLATE THE PCP, AND (B) HELP DEAL WITH THE ECONOMIC SITUATION. COSTA COMMENTED THAT IT WAS NO PROBLEM FOR THE CDS TO COOPERATE WITH THE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT, SINCE IT HAD ALREADY MUTED ITS OPPOSITION. HE NOTED THAT THE MERCURIAL SA CARNEIRO MIGHT HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY STICKING TO THIS POLICY, BUT THOUGHT THE PSD WOULD DO SO IN VIEW OF THE PRESIDENTIAL INJUNCTION.

3. COMMENT: EANES PROBABLY ALSO WANTS A SHOW OF UNITY BY THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES WHILE HE CONTINUES TO TAKE STEPS AGAINST LEFTISTS INSIDE THE MILITARY, AS WELL AS THE PCP. WE UNDERSTAND, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT EANES CONFIDENTIAL

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INTENDS TO CUT MELO ANTUNES DOWN TO SIZE AND THAT HE INTENDS TO PRESS FORWARD AND PUNISH THOSE MILITARY WHO WERE INVOLVED WITH EXCESSES AND PHYSICAL ABUSES DURING 1975. A COMMON FRONT OF THE THREE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES DURING THIS EXERCISE WOULD STRENGTHEN THE PRESIDENT'S HAND.

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Sent Date: 21-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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